

Translated from Spanish

Permanent Mission of Cuba
to the United Nations

6 East 67th Street
N.Y. 21, N.Y.

20 August 1963

No. 368

Sir,

On instructions from the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, I have the honour to transmit the text of the following Declaration, issued on 19 August 1963:

"Declaration of the Revolutionary Government

At 1.30 a.m. on 19 August 1963, two landing-craft coming from a mother-ship at the mouth of the Santa Lucía, on the northern coast of the Municipio of Piñar del Río in the Province of the same name, simultaneously penetrated into two of the streams of the area and approached the nearby Sulfometales Plant, against which they suddenly opened fire, using 30-calibre machine guns and bazookas in their attack and succeeding in puncturing some oil tanks, a sulphuric acid tank and some of the acid piping of the plant.

The projectiles from the bazookas passed over the installations without hitting them.

The members of the people's defence militia of the plant immediately repelled the aggression, succeeded in repulsing it and put to flight the attacking pirates, who in fleeing were covered by the fire of large-calibre machine guns coming from the mother-ship from which they had started out.

His Excellency U Thant,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York

While some of the workers devoted themselves to repairing the damage to the installations of their plant, the remaining members of the militia proceeded to comb the access canals to the plant and seized one landing-craft, one outboard-motor, one 88.9 mm bazooka, two 30-calibre machine guns, one full cartridge-belt with clips for a 30-calibre weapon, seven shell-cases of fired bazooka-projectiles, an empty petrol tank, seven percussion-caps, one unused bazooka-projectile, four small light-buoys which marked out the canals and which had been placed in position by the aggressors themselves moments before the attack.

The Revolutionary Government wishes to express its gratitude to the workers of the Sulfometales Plant for their speedy, patriotic and exemplary reaction, which prevented the aggressors from consummating their plans to destroy this important industry of our country. This is how the Cuban workers will defend every inch of ground and every factory they are building with their sweat and self-denial.

This is the third pirate attack against our country in the last seventy-two hours, and it is further proof that implementation of the plan of aggression, repeatedly forecast in cynical terms by the United States Press and by various officials and Members of Congress of the imperialist Government of the United States, is being initiated with the approved participation of some puppet Governments of Central America.

The costly equipment used by the aggressors can only be available to the United States Government's Central Intelligence Agency, which worked out the plans, organized the bases and supplied the resources and technical facilities for this type of warfare against Cuba.

We hold the Government of the United States of America directly responsible for this cowardly attack and alert world opinion to the dangers which this policy entails for peace less than one year since the Caribbean crisis.

The Government of Cuba finds itself compelled to consider the measures it must take to ensure the defence of our country in view of the new aggressive plans of the United States.

These events serve to emphasize the five points put forward by the Government of the Republic of Cuba shortly after the crisis of last October as indispensable for doing away with the tension caused in this part of the world by United States aggression against the Cuban Revolution. Everything seems to indicate that new and very serious problems may arise owing to the stupid, criminal and shameless policy with regard to the Cuban problem pursued by the United States Government at the very time when elsewhere it signs an agreement on the cessation of nuclear tests.

The United States Government is obviously miscalculating when it thinks that it can take advantage of the present international situation to try to destroy the Cuban Revolution, underestimating both the capacity of the Cuban people to defend itself and the solidarity of the Soviet Union with our country.

Such miscalculations of a perfidious policy steeped in bad faith may dash the just hopes of mankind that the dangers of war and international tension are lessening.

Revolutionary Government of Cuba"

I request you to arrange for the distribution of this note to all States Members of the United Nations.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Juan Juarbe Juarbe
Counsellor,
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.